

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, 15, 19, and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,926,616 to Sato et al. (herein "Sato"). Claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-18, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sato as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. patent 5,327,260 to Shimomae et al. (herein "Shimomae").

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, 15, 19, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Sato, and the further rejection of claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-18, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sato as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Shimomae, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, each of the independent claims now clarifies that "the integers  $D_y$  [ $D_x$ ] and  $R_y$  [ $R_x$ ] are determined based on a ratio between an image resolution of an input original image and an image resolution of an output image". That subject matter is fully supported by the original specification, see for example page 12, line 20 *et seq.* As discussed therein a ratio of an input image resolution  $DPI_{in}$  and an image resolution  $DPI_{out}$  for a signal, for example that may be printed, may take the form of  $DPI_{out}/DPI_{in}$ , and  $(D_y + R_y)/2$  may be equal to that ratio. Thus, the integers  $D_y$  and  $R_y$  are set based on that ratio  $DPI_{out}/DPI_{in}$ . Such subject matter clarified in the claims is believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art to Sato.

With respect to the first multiplying recited in the claims, the outstanding Office Action cites the teachings in Sato at column 4, lines 38-41 and element 8 in Figure 1, and the Office Action appears to specifically note that the integer  $m$  can be set to 3 ( $m=3$ ). Further

with respect to the second multiplying the outstanding Office Action cites Sato at column 2, lines 13-15.

However, applicant notes that at no portion does Sato teach or suggest any operation in which set positive integers  $D_y$ ,  $R_y$  (or  $D_x$ ,  $R_x$ ) are determined based on a ratio between “an image resolution of an input original image and an image resolution of an output image”, as now clarified in each of the claims.

In such ways, each of the claims is believed to clearly distinguish over the teachings in Sato.

Moreover, no teachings in Shimomae are relied upon to address any of the above-noted features, and the teachings in Shimomae are not believed to overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Sato.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

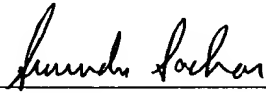
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